

NOTICE TO THE WILDLIFE IMPORT/EXPORT COMMUNITY



April 4, 2014

Subject: Suspension on Imports of Specific African Elephant Trophies

<u>Background:</u> Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the Service is responsible for ensuring that imports of CITES listed wildlife are legally acquired and that trade does not threaten the stability of wild populations. The Endangered Species Act further specifies that the import of an African elephant trophy must enhance the survival of the species.

The Service is unable to make positive findings under CITES and the ESA with respect to the continued importation of African elephant trophies taken this year in Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Elephant populations are declining in both countries due to accelerated poaching for the ivory trade. While you may still participate in a hunt in Tanzania or Zimbabwe in 2014, you will not be able to import the trophy.

<u>Action:</u> Effective immediately, Service wildlife inspectors will no longer clear imports of African elephant trophies taken in Tanzania and Zimbabwe during calendar year 2014. Under this trade suspension, the Service will refuse entry to such trophies and allow re-export at the importer's expense. Inspectors may also seize and seek forfeiture of shipments if the importation violates other wildlife trade laws and regulations.

Importers, brokers, and others involved with such shipments are advised to forego importation into the United States at this time to avoid loss of the shipment or the cost of re-export.

This trade suspension does not apply to elephant trophies legally taken in Tanzania and Zimbabwe in 2013 or previous years. Shipments, however, must include appropriate documentation of the year in which the elephant was hunted.

This trade suspension only affects the import of trophy shipments. It does not apply to the import of live African elephants or other elephant parts and products from Zimbabwe.

You may obtain more information about this decision in this news release and Q&A document.

Contact:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement 703-358-1949; 703-358-2271 (fax) lawenforcement@fws.gov (e-mail)